

W. J. B. Stokes House
West State Street
Trenton, Mercer County, New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, F.A.S.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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W. J. B. Stokes House
West State Street
Trenton, Mercer County, New Jersey

Owner: Dr. Benjamin Treiber

Date of Erection: 1838-1840

Architect:

Builder: Probably Zachariah Rossell

Present Condition: Good

Number of Stories: Two

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone

Exterior walls - frame construction, flush siding

Interior walls - plaster

Inside brick chimneys

Roof - front portion pitch, rear flat

Historical Data:

The will of Joseph Broadhurst dated December 9, 1819 bequeaths part of his plantation to Joseph B. Anderson and the rest of his estate to the children of Jemina Anderson, wife of Joshua S., excepting Joseph B. The next transaction on record concerning the property upon which this house was built is recorded in the Hunterdon County records under date of June 9, 1836 when Joshua S. Anderson, guardian for two of his children, transferred the property to Nelson Large of Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

On the following day, Large received by deed from Kezia P. Anderson, Benjamin F. Vanclevo, and wife, an undivided two-fifth parts of a lot in the city of Trenton which lay on the southwesterly side of Second Street. On that same day, Large conveyed to Oliver Halstead of Newark, a lot on the southwesterly side of Second Street containing one and forty-four hundred acres. A bill of foreclosure was filed by Joshua S. Anderson, guardian, in 1837 and the property was sold by John Runk, sheriff, to Zachariah Rossell of Trenton.

An article in the Trenton Sunday Advertiser for May 12, 1912 states that the house was built by General Zachariah Rossell sometime between 1817 and 1820. According to the search this date is incorrect; it is probable that Rossell built the house, but it must have been built around 1838-1840. Rossell was a Captain and Major in the War of 1812. He came to Trenton from Mt. Holly after the war and was clerk of the Supreme Court from 1817-1842 and Adjutant-General of the State from 1816-1842. He died in the latter year.

The records show that the house was transferred by N. Beakes Rossell et als. to Matthews C. Jenkins in 1849. The widow of Matthew Jenkins sold the house to Henry M. Lewis in 1859. Lewis was a well known paper manufacturer in Trenton. Mrs. Lewis transferred the property on January 31, 1865 to John B. Burke who transferred back to her later in that same year. On August 11, 1870, Lucy Lewis sold the property to Catherine Dill. Catherine Dill in her will in 1886 bequeathed the property to Alfred M. Livingston. Livingston sold the property in 1888 but got it back again in 1889. Five years later he sold it to Lavina M. Drum. It was from her that W. J. B. Stokes purchased in 1900. By will dated January 8, 1936 W. J. B. Stokes left the property to his wife Mary E., who conveyed it in 1938 to Dr. Benjamin Treiber, the present owner.

Bibliography:

A search of records in Hunterdon County at Flemington and of Mercer County at Trenton made by Robert M. Falcey, Mercer County Office

"Notable Trenton Homes" Trenton Sunday Advertiser Issue of May 12, 1912

Walter P. Pitt
Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour Williams
SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, F.A.I.A.
District Officer